12/20/71 under Lifton

Dear Howard,

Nothing I've yet seen in your mailing of the 17th, which I scanned on arrival, says when school is out. Depends on what timein January whether or not we'll be free or I'll be here. I have to go to NYC the middle of the month, on a weekend. Jerry is talking of coming and Gary is due I think toward the end of the first full week. I've asked him to let me know when.

Your return of my letter to Ned again asking for the return of my material reminds me that I've heard nothing from him or Gary on this. Gary has been back from a trip for enough time now. I don't like it.

Lifton is as devious as he is sick. You seem to have handled it well. His financing, as I've understood it (and both directly and indirectly I suppose he has to be the source) seems to be an affluent father. If he was obvious in trying to pump you, it is no complement. He is generally reported to be subtle about it. I am never certain when he means what he says, about himself, others and things. I had heard he was coming east to see about getting his book publisher. I've also felt that he doesn't want to really do that because it will end his reason for existing.

None of the Memphis police named in the NYTimes story rings a bell.

The article on noise is interesting. Glad to note the new Heathrow stody. I'll have to try to get it. I have earlier ones.

Let me know as soon as you can what your plans are, then I can let you know how they coincide with ours. I am expecting rather more than the usual number of guests during this period.

Our best to your family. Hope you all have a nice holiday. Yours, I presume, is improved by the end of the fianls.

Best,